



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

June 25, 2008

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

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Fifth District

## SKILLED NURSING AND CONVALESCENT HOMES GRADING SYSTEM

On November 20, 2007, your Board approved a motion by Supervisor Antonovich directing this Office to work with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to research the viability of inspecting and posting grades at skilled nursing homes and convalescent homes and report back to the Board in 60 days.

On January 22 and April 3, 2008, we provided reports on the status of our research, including a finding by County Counsel that the County does not have the authority to impose a mandatory grading system for these facilities. Given this finding, this Office and DPH explored other options for improving consumer access to information regarding skilled nursing and convalescent homes, which may accomplish a similar objective as establishing a letter grading system. This is our final report on these efforts.

DPH conducted an extensive assessment of the technical and resource requirements for posting results of nursing facility survey inspections on its own website; unfortunately, DPH has determined that this option is not a viable alternative. To create such a County website would require a major investment of staff resources. Most importantly, such information would not be significantly more useful to the consumer than other websites which are currently maintained by State and federal agencies. Therefore, as an alternative, DPH has created a link on its website to the State and federal websites, to make it easier for consumers to access that information.

The State website, <https://hfcis.cdph.ca.gov>, is maintained by the California Department of Public Health and has consumer information including compliance histories of Long Term Care Facilities and statements of deficiencies for General Acute Care Hospitals. It also enables the public to file complaints regarding nursing homes that are directly submitted to the district offices in the State including DPH's Health Facilities Inspection Division. Additionally, the following federal website is maintained by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and provides additional information regarding the federal compliance history of Skilled Nursing Facilities nationwide: <https://www.medicare.gov>.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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The DPH website, which now includes this link, is at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov>.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Tami Omoto-Frias of this office at (213) 893-9741, or [tomoto-frias@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:tomoto-frias@ceo.lacounty.gov).

WTF:SRH:SAS  
MLM:TOF:yb

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
         County Counsel  
         Director and Health Officer, Department of Public Health

Skilled Nursing 062508\_mbs